GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:276
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2003
USE OF CLOSED COAL MINES FOR WATER MANAGEMENT
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to use the closed coal mines for water management;

(b) if so, whether the closed coal mines will be transferred to the State Governments for water management;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether participation of the private sector will also be sought in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether along with the ground water enhancement the unsafe coal mines will be filled with the ashes of the thermal power stations; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government for using the closed coal mines in general for water management or for transferring the closed coal mines to the State Governments for water management. However, the coal companies, at places, use the abandoned quarries as well as underground goaves as reservoirs of water for industrial and momestice use in their working mines and colonies of their employees. CIL has informed that around six opencast mines in ECL where mining operations are suspended, have been identified for handing over to the Govet. of West Bengal for pisciculture and tourism.

(d) & (e) Does not arise in view of answer given to parts (a) to (c)

(f) & (g): Based on an exercise carried out by CMPDIL/subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited, a number of voids in ECL, CCL NCL and MCL have been identified for disposal of fly-ash from power houses. The provisional details are given below;

subsidiaries	Identified voids in MM in 3 time frames		
	Immediate	After 5 years	After 10 years
ECL	68 MM3 (105 sites in 8 areas)	10 MM3 (10 sites in 7 areas)	60 MM3 (7 sites in 7 areas)
CCL	0.4 MM3 in Amlo OCP (Dhori W. area) 0.2 MM3 in ARA OCP (Kuju area)	15 MM3 Piparwar OCP (Piparwar area)	Nil
NCL	25 MM3 in Gorbi Quarry No.1&4	Nil	Nil
MCL	13 MM3 in Bharatpur S. Balanda OCP (Kalinga area)	19 MM3 in S. Balanda OCP (Jagannath area)	9 MM3 in Lilari OCP (IB-Valley area)

However the matter of filling the voids with fly ash from coal based power houses is still under extensive trials.